PAPERS RELATING

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REV. SAMUEL SKELTON.

COMMUNICATED BY W. P. UPHAM.

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[From the Historical Collections of the Essex Institute. Vol. xiii, April, 1875.]

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PAPERS RELATING TO THE REV. SAMUEL SKELTON.

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THE following are exact copies of original papers on file in the Record Office of the Superior Court in the Court House at Boston. Mr. Skelton, minister of the church at Salem, died Aug. 2, 1634, having been settled here under an agreement with the Company in London, by which he and his family were to be provided for. These papers relate to the adjustment of the accounts, and appear to be the result of an investigation made before a Jury, as the first paper is endorsed:

"The accounts: betwene: mr Debete "(deputy governor)" Mr. Dudle & mrs Bagerle: wth ou^{r} Jurie verdict."

The Coppie of the Ministers Agreem.^{t} wth the Companie & ffrancis Bright of [Roiley] in Essex Clark haue this present 2th Febr: 1628 agreed wth the Comp.^{a} of Aduenturers for new England in America to bee ready wth my wyf 2 children & one maid servant by the begining of march next to take our passage to their plantation at or neare Massachusetts Bay in New England as aforesaid wheare I doe promise god sparing mee Life & health to serve the said Company in the work of the ministery by my true & faithfull endeauours for the space of Three years for & in consideration wherof these seuerall p ticulars are this day agreed vpon by the s^{d} company and by me accepted Namely:

1. That twenty pounds shalbe [forth]with paid me by the Companies Treasurer towards Chardges of fitting my selfe wth apparell, & other necessaries for ye voiadge.

2. That ten pounds more shalbe paid me by him towards p videing of [book]es which said books vpon my death, or removall from the Chardg now i[ntended] to bee transferred vpon mee, are to be and remaine to such minister as shall succeed in my place for the said Company, & before my departure out of England I am to deliuer a p ticuler of the said bookes.

3. That twenty pounds yearly shalbee paid mee for three yeares to begin from the tyme of my first Arivall in New England & so to bee accounted and paid at the end of each yeare.

4. That dureing the said tyme the Company shall p vide for mee and my family aforementioned necessaries of dyet housing fierwood, & shalbee at the Chardge of the transportacion of vs into New England, and at the end of the said three yeares if I shal not like to Continew longer there; to be at Charges of transporting vs back for England.

5. That in convenient tyme a house shalbe built, & certaine Lands alloted their vnto, wch during my stay in the Country, & continewing in the ministerie shalbe for my vse, and after my death or Removall the same to be for succeeding ministers.

6. That at the expiracion of the said three years one hundred Acrs of Land shalbe assigned vnto me for mee, & my heirs for euer.

7. That in case I shal depart this life in that Country the said Company shall take care for my widow dureing her widowhood and aboad [in tha]t Country and plantation, the like for my children whilst they remain [up]on the said plantation.

8. That the milk of twoe kine shalbee appointed mee towards the Chardg of dyet for mee and my family as aforesaid and half their increase dureing the said three years to be likewise mine, but the said twoe kine & the other half of the increase to returne to the Company att the end of the said three years.

9. That I shall haue liberty to Carry bedding linnen brasse yron pewter of my owne for my necessary vse dureing the said tyme.

10. That if I Continew seaven years vpon the said plantation that then one hundred acrs of Land more shalbe allotted to mee for me & my heirs for ever.

The 8 of Aprill 1629.

M^r^ ffrancis Higgeson and Mr Samuell Skelton Intended ministers for this plantacon, and it being thought meete to consider of their intertainem^t^, who expressing their willingnes, together also with M^r^ ffrancis Bright being now present, to doe their true endeavor in their places of the ministerie, as well in preaching, Catechizinge as also in teaching or causing to bee taught the Companys servants and their children as also the Salvages & their Children wherby to their uttermost to further the maine end of this Plantation being by the assistance of Almighty God the Convertion of the Saluages; The p positions & agreem^ts^. concluded on with M^r^ ffrancis Bright the second of February last were reciprocallie accepted of by M^r^ ffrancis Higgeson and Mr Samuel Skelton who are in euery respect to haue the like conditions as Mr Bright hath, only wheaeas Mr Higgeson hath eight children it is intended that 10.^£^ more yearly shalbee allowed him towards their chardges; And it is agreed that the increase to be improved of all their grounds during the

first three yeares, shalbe att the Companys disposinge, who are to find their dyet dureing that tyme; and 10£ more to Mr Higgeson towards his present fitting him & his for the voyage:

ffrancis Higgeson,
Samuell Skelton.

This is a true Coppy of the agreemt made betweene Mr Higeson, Mr Skelton, and the Company as it was Coppied out of the booke by the secretary of or Company verbatim Mr Bright his agreem.t is on the other syde whereby you may p ceaue what agreem.t was made, & further though it was not mentioned in the agreem.t but forgotten Mr Higgeson was p mised a man seruant to take care & look to his things & to catch him fish & fowle & p vide other things needfull and also 2 maid seruants to look to his family.

MR. SKELTONS ACCOMPT WTH THE COMPANIE.

[This heading is in the hand-writing of Gov. Endicott.]

MR. SKELTON IS D.OR VIZ.

		lb s d	
℔	14 yards of dutch Serge Recd att	2—05— 9	
It.	17 yards of ffustian att	1—07— 0	
It.	11 yards of wt English ieans	0—13— 9	
It.	12 yards of Red p petuana	1—16— 0	
It.	12 yards of Greene say	1—13— 0	
It.	12 yards of yellow say	1—13— 0	
It.	12 elns of blew linnen	0—14— 0	
It.	14 elns of course holland	1—17— 4	lb s p
It.	20 elns of course Lo[ck]erum	1—05—10	20—11— 7
It.	23½ yds of stript Linsey woolsy	1—09— 4	
It.	7 yrds of buckerum	0—05— 3	
It.	one peece of Noridg serdg	2—05— 0	
It.	20 elns of Lockerum	1—05—10	
It.	15 yards of wt fflannell	0—15—00	
It.	20 elns of Course Canvas	1—04 [0]	
It.	one pound of whalbone	0 [01—6]	

			lb s d
Item ℔ so much pd ℔ Mr Renell prt of Mr Pearce his bill, the some of			08=00= 0
Item ℔ 9lb of Iron att 3d is	0—02—3	lb s d	
It. ℔ one syth	0—03—0		
It. ℔ one fishing line	0—03—0		
It. ℔ 30 pound ocum	0—07—6	02—01— 2	
It. ℔ 2000 Nails 6d ℔ C	0—10—0		
It. ℔ 660 Nails 10d ℔ C	0—05—5		
It. ℔ 1 reame of paper	0—10—0		
Item borowed of C.p Endicot of ye Comps.			
7 yrds of bays att 2s 6d ℔ yrd is		00—17—06	
halfe a elne of ffustian att		00—00—10	
It. 2 yards & half of yellow Carsey 3s 4d		00—08— 4	03=07=10
		Suma to lis	31—19— 5
Ite 2 gall of Metheglen 8s			0—08— 0

REC^D OF MR WINTHROP GOVERN.^R

[These five words are in Endicott's handwriting.]

Ite 3 yrds of Cambrick		
6 yrds & a h. of Loomework	It. one Lether Jack	0—01—06
2 drinking hornes	It. two Tubbs	
8 pr of shoes for men	It. one wooden hand boule	00—03—06
6 pr gray stockings for men	Ite vinegar	
6 pr of stockings for women	It. 3 peuter botls quarts	
6 pr of stockings for children	It. one pinte peuter botle	00—00—10
10 yrds of Carsey	It. one hatt	00—10— 0
Thred		
2000 of pinnes		33—03—03
6 Alls		
one webb of blew gartering		
2 knots of Tape		

A COPPIE OF AN ACCOMPTE OF MONIES MR. SKELTON IS CREDITOR, VIZ.:

	lb s d
An^o 1629	
Inprimis ℔ so much wch should haue beene paid him in England towards fitting him for ye voyadg	20—00— 0
Item for charges att Tiltbury, Cowes, & Plimoth, being wind bound	2—10— 0
Item ℔ Twenty ℔ Annum for 3 years is ye some of	60—00— 0

	lb s d	
Item for on bushell of wheat flower	00—15— 0	
It. for one bushell of oat meale	00—10— 0	
It. for one holland & 2 ordenary cheese	00—10— 0	
It. for xx^{lb} of pouder suger att	01—03— 9	
It. for one Loaf Cont. 7^{lb} at 1^{s} 6^{d}	00—10— 6	
It. for one sugar Loaf Cont. 5^{lb} at 1^{s} 7^{d} ℔ lb	00—07—11	
It. 6^{lb} of pepper	00—12—00	
It. Nutmeggs 4 ozs.	00—01— 8	
It. one oz. of clovs, & one oz. of mace	00—02— 0	
Ite. iii^{lb} of starch	00—01— 3	
Ite. xii^{lb} of Rice	00—06— 0	
Ite. vi^{lb} of vntryed suett	00—03— 0	
Ite. one gall of aquavites	00—03— 8	
Ite. for one flitch of Bacon	00—14— 0	
Ite. Castle soape ix^{lb} att 8^{d} ℔ lb	00—06— 0	
Ite. frute viz. Reasons Corrants & pruens	00—14— 0	
Ite. Safron ii oz.	00—05— 0	
Ite. five qu. of stronge water	00—08— 0	
Ite. Almonds ii^{lb} att 1^{s} 2^{d}	00—02— 4	
Ite. xv^{lb} of tryed suett at 8^{d} ℔ lb	00—10— 0	
Ite. one gall. of Sallert oyle	00—06— 0	
Ite. vi^{lb} of Candls	00—03— 0	
Ite. v geese & ix ducks	00—08— 0	09—03— 1
An^{o} 1630		
Ite. xii^{lb} of Butter att	00—08— 0	
Ite. vi potts of Butter cont. viii ^{lb} ℔ pott	01—08— 0	
Ite. ii Cheeses about x^{lb} a ps.	00—11— 8	
Ite. half a firkin of butter of Mr. Gibbs	00—17— 6	
Ite. one third part of a barrell of w^{t} biskett	00—10— 0	
Ite. one pott of hony vii^{lb} wait att	00—07—10	
Ite. one pott of butter att	00—03—00	
Ite. x^{lb} of Corrants att	00—05—00	
Ite. Bacon	00—10—00	
Ite. one dozen of Candls	00—08—00	
Ite. ii cheeses at vi^{d} ℔ lb	00—11— 3	
Ite. iii cheeses att vii^{d} ℔ lb	00—17— 9	
Ite. one porkett	01—05— 0	
Ite. xii^{lb} of tryed suett	00—08— 0	
Ite. vi geese & xii ducks	00—14— 0	
Ite. vi po: of powder suger about 20^{d}	00—10— 0	
Ite. v po. of powder suger 18^{d}	00—07— 6	
Ite. x^{lb} of loaf suger	01—00— 0	
Ite. cloves & mace	00—01— 0	
Ite. ii oz. of Nutmegs i^{s} & Sinamon 4^{d}	00—02— 4	11—05—10

	lb s d
Ite. workmen's wadges for Cutting & bringing home wood against winter about	03—00—00
Suma to lis	105=18=11

MR. SKELTON IS CREDITOR, VIZ.

Item ℔ so much Mr Pearce for provisions of meale, pease, canvas [C]arsey & elce wth 3lb 5s 9d [ ] after 25lb ℔ cent & freight I say pd the some of		12—15— 1
Ite. for 3 quarts of aquavites		00—03— 9
Ite. for xlb of rice att 5d		00—04— 2
	lb s d	
Ite. 10lb of Butter att	0—06— 8	
Ite. 4 cheeses att	1—03— 4	
Ite. 10 peeces of pork	0—11— 8	
Ite. more 20lb of Butter	0—10—00	05—11— 8
Ite. more 4 bushells Virginia Corne	2—00— 0	
Ite. soape 7lb & vineger 4 gall. 8s & 1 g. 2s	0—17— 0	
Ite. 2 pecks of wt salte att	0—03— 0	
Sum is		18—14— 8
And on the other syde the totall some of		105—18—11
Suma to lis		124—13— 7

Now de Increase

The first year next after the receipte of the 2 heiffers, both the calues miscaried, one about a quarter ould dyed, the other neare upon a yeare ould Lost by the woolvs.

The second yeare there was a heiffer calfe and a bull calfe wch heiffer is now in my hands and the Bull calfe Mr Skelton sould att one year and three quarters ould for eight pounds.

The Therd yeare was 2 bull Calues which the begining of the winter weare both eaten with the woolvs.

Now since the Three foresaid years, the next yeare after was Twoe bull calues, and an heiffer Calfe, the springe before Mr. Skeltons death.

And This yeare since was Three bull Calues Twoe whereof are dead, the one when it was about Twenty & twoe weeks ould, the other since winter did begin. Now for the keeping of the Catle wch should haue beene att the Companyes Chardge hath wholly Lyen vpon vs.

The above papers are in the handwriting of Ralph Fogg, who was in 1636 the town clerk and also the clerk of the Quarter Court; the last part shows that they were written during the winter of 1634–5. Whether the examination of the accounts was made at Salem and reported to the Court at Boston, or whether it was made before the Court of Assistants at Boston does not appear. The only reference to the subject on the Colony Records is the following: — At a Court of Assistants, June 5, 1638, "It was ordered, wth. the consent of Mrs. Baggerly, that the increase of Mr. Skeltons cattle should bee divided according to Mr. Skeltons will, & that the goods & household stuffe wch. belongs to the 3 eldest child^rn should bee divided by some of the church of Salem, & comitted to the church of Salem."

Hugh Peter writes to Winthrop from Salem, Aug. 8 [1638] "let me haue a word from you about Mrs. Beggarly's, or rather Mr. Skelton's house which is now falling to the ground if some thing bee not done." As Mrs. Beggarly thus seems to have represented the estate of Mr. Skelton it has been supposed that she was his widow; but this would seem to be an error, for in Winthrop's Journal, Vol. 2, p. 344, is mentioned a hearing by the Court of Assistants, June 2, 1636, of "the cause between Richard Beggarly and his wife, who had been here six years, and he in England." She sought to obtain a divorce, but the decision of the court was deferred. "We ordered he should remain separate from her till she might send into England for further proof, and appointed him twenty shillings from her to set him to work, etc." Apparently she took the name, afterwards, of "Mrs. Daniel." There is no mention of Mrs. Beggarly on our town records, while a Mrs. (or M.^ris) Daniel has a grant of land in 1637, and appears to have been in possession, then, of

part, at least, of Mr. Skelton's estate.[1] She probably soon after removed to Providence and married John Greene. "Mrs. Daniel" had a grant of land there in 1637 (see Rhode Island Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 15, and the note thereto "Alice Daniell, afterwards the wife of John Greene"). Winthrop in his Journal (Vol. 1, p. 283) refers to Green thus "(who hath married the wife of one Beggarly whose husband is living, and no divorce)." On the record of the Quarter Court at Salem, March 27, 1638, is the following, "Mrs. Daniell, pl., ag.t Richard Beckly, deft., in [an action] of debt, Jury finds for pl. twenty shillings damages & iiiis costs." The sum recovered and the name of the defendant suggest a connection between this action and the petition for divorce above mentioned. In the list of those among whom the marsh lands in Salem were divided, and in which the number before the name indicates the number of persons in the family, is entered "1 M.ris Daniell ——." The blank where the amount of her allotment should have been stated is perhaps explained by her removal to Providence.

In an account of Mr. Skelton's house, "Essex Inst. Hist. Coll.," Vol. 8, pp. 255–6, it is stated that a "cottage right" was allowed for Mrs. Daniel's house, which stood next to that of Mr. Skelton and on his land. The name is entered on the Commoners Record "Mr. Daniel," but this was probably an error for *Mrs.* Daniel, as there is no mention of any Mr. Daniel here at so early a date.

The following extracts from the records of deeds for the County of Essex furnish some information as to the

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[1] (See Salem town records grant of land to Lawrence Leach, Feb. 20, 1637. Leach's land was on the east side of Porter's River. Mr. Skelton's farm (now Danversport) being on the west side. Leach's grant is described as "over against Mrs. Daniells farme.")

family of Mr. Skelton not hitherto noticed. Felt states only that he "left children, Samuel and three daughters." The names of the daughters and their marraiges appear from the following data. In 1649 a caveat is recorded of the sale of "Skelton's Neck" by Samuel Skelton, son of Rev. Samuel Skelton, to John Porter, "reserving three score acres of the said neck of land lying furthest west."—Book 1, Leaf 8. This is confirmed by a subsequent deed in 1663, "the said John Porter having purchased the right and interest of the three daughters of the said Samuel Skelton, Senr., in ye said farm."—Book 2, Leaf 71. Accordingly we find recorded a deed of twenty acres of land which by its bounds appears to be part of "Skelton's Neck," from Robert Sanford of Boston and Elizabeth his wife to John Porter, in 1652,—Book 2, Leaf 25; and also a deed, in 1655, to John Porter, of the remaining forty acres from John Marsh of Salem and Susanna his wife and Nathaniel Felton of Salem and Mary his wife.—Book 2, Leaf 33.

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